

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 PC-01 /038 W

----- 046928

R 131137Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE 6474

INFO "AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2441

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3714

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, PK, XF

SUBJ: HOVEYDA PRAISES BHUTTO'S ABOLITION OF
SARDARI SYSTEM

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. PRIMIN HOVEYDA'S LETTER TO
BHUTTO CONGRATULATING HIM ON DECISION TO ABOLISH FEUDAL
SARDARI SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN APPEARED ON FRONT PAGES OF
ALL PERSIAN AND FOREIGN-LANGUAGE PAPERS APRIL 13.
TEXT FOLLOWS:

QTE DEAR FRIEND AND PRIME MINISTER: IT WAS WITH GREAT
ADMIRATION AND PLEASURE THAT I LEARNED OF YOUR
EXCELLENCY'S DECISION TO ABOLISH THE FEUDAL "SARDAR"
SYSTEM, OPENING NEW VISTAS OF DEMOCRACY, HOPE AND
CONFIDENCE FOR THE BORTHERLY PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN.
I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS MONTOUS MOVE WILL USHER IN
AN ENTIRELY NEW ERA OF PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY FOR THE
RURAL PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN IN A CONTEXT OF FREEDOM
AND HUMAN DIGNITY. YOUR EXCELLENCY'S COURAGEOUS
ACT, A VIVID SIGH ON WISDOM AND STATESMANSHIP,
WILL NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY IN PAKISTAN
BUT WILL ALSO ENABLE MILLIONS OF PUR PAKISTANI
BRETHREN TO ACHIEVE FULL PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL
LIFE FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE ABOLITION OF THE
VESTIGES OF THE INHUMAN FEUDAL SYSTEM REPRESENTS
A GIANT STRIDE TOWARDS THE FULL ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
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NOBLE GOALS YOUR EXCELLENCY HAS SET FOR THE BORTHERLY

PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN. IT IS, AT THE SAME TIME, A GREAT
VICTORY FOR ALL THE FORCES OF PROGRESS AND CONSTRUCTIVE
DYNAMISM IN OUR REGION. IN CONVEYING TO YOU MY MOST
SINCERE FELICITATIONS, I WISH TO REASSERT THE UNSHAKABLE
BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP THAT BIND OUR TWO PEOPLES
TOGETHER IN THEIR QUEST FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS.
AMIR ABBAS HOVEYDA, PRIME MINISTER OF IRAN UNQTE END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE KNOW SHAH HAS PRIVATELY URGED
BHUTTO TO TAKE STEPS TO REFORM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEM
IN PROVINCES AS MEANS OF REDUCING UNREST, PARTICULARLY
IN NEIGHBORING BALUCHISTAN, BUT ARE SOMEWHAT SURPRISED
IRANIAN WOULD PUBLICLY ENDORSE AN INTERNAL PAK DEVELOPMENT
IN THIS WAY. SHAH IS IMMENSELY PROUD OF HAVING BORKEN
FEUDAL POWER OF IRANIAN LANDORDS THROUGH LAND REFORM
13 YEARS AGO AND IS PLEASED WITH INCREASED INTERNAL
SECURITY AND NATIONAL AUTHORITY WHICH HAVE RESULTED.
(HE HAS TOLD SHAIKHS ACROSS PERSIAN GULF THEY SHOULC
DO LIKEWISE IN THEIR OWN AND REGION'S INTEREST.)
IRANIANS PROBABLY HOPE THAT PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT OF
BHUTTO'S MOVE WILL BURNISH THEIR OWN IMAGE AS
PIONEERS OF SOCIAL REFORM IN MIDEAST AND AS PROGRESSIVE
MODEL TO BE EMULATED--WE EXPECT EDITORIALS IN NEXT
FEW DAYS TO MAKE THIS POINT.
HELMS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMOCRACY, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TEHRAN03714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760139-0814
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760465/aaaacdnx.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOVEYDA PRAISES BHUTTO'S ABOLITION OF SARDARI SYSTEM
TAGS: PFOR, IR, PK, XF, (HOVEYDA, AMIR ABBAS), (BHUTTO, ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006